

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00761 122129Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8841

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0761

(C O R R E C T E D C O P Y, LONDON ADDED AS ADDEE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT AV SC UK

SUBJ: HMG/ANGUILLA TALKS MAKES SOME PROGRESS

REFS: (A) BTN 0749 (B) LONDON 07009

SUMMARY: PREMIER ROBERT BRADSHAW AND PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY AT FOREIGN COMMONWEALTH OFFICE JOAN LESTOR RECENTLY HELD TALKS IN BARBADOS MAY 7-8 ON CONSTITUTIONAL KUTURE OF BREAKAWAY ANGUILLA. FOLLOWING TALKS, BRADSHAW CALLED AT EMBASSY AT MY REQUEST AND SHARED HIS VIEWS WITH ME AND EMBPOLOFF. FOLLOWING PAST PATTERNS, BRADSHAW WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF HMC, BUT NEVERTHELESS CONCLUDED THAT TALKS WITH MISS LESTOR HAD "MADE SOME PROGRESS." ANGUILLA COUNCIL LEADER RONALD WEBSTER'S TALKS WITH LESTOR HAVE BEEN POSTPONED AGAIN. USG, ACCORDING TO BRADSHAW, COULD PLAY SMALL ROLE IN HELPING TO RESOLVE ANGUILLA PROBLEM AT PRESENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 7 AND 8, KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA PREMIER ROBERT BRADSHAW AND PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY AT FOREIGN COMMONWEALTH OFFICE MISS JOAN LESTOR HELD TALKS ON FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF BREAKWAY ANGUILLA AT BARBADOS' COLONY CLUB HOTEL. AFTERWARDS BRADSHAW VISITED EMBASSY AT MY INVITATION AND TALKED WITH POLOFF
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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 00761 122129Z

AND ME.

2. IN REVIEWING HISTORY OF ANGUILLA CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTE, BRADSHAW WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF HMG. HE SAID THAT HMG HAD NOT BEEN "TERRIBLY FORTHCOMING" ON ANGUILLA AND THAT IT HAD ATTEMPTED TO MAKE "TOO MUCH POLITICAL CAPITAL ON ANGUILLA ISSUE." BRADSHAW NOTED "IF HMG HAD NOT PUSSY-FOOTED AROUND ON ANGUILLA IN RE-ACTION TO PRESS OPINION, THEN SITUATION WOULD NOT HAVE BECOME A PROTRACTED ONE." HE COMPLAINED THAT HMG HAS NOT "GIVEN HIM ANY SUPPORT AT ALL ON ANGUILLA."

3. DESPITE THESE CRITICISMS, BRADSHAW CHARACTERIZED HIS TALKS WITH MISS LESTOR AS "MAKING SOME PROGRESS." ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT BRITISH DID NOT COME PREPARED WITH ANY "SPECIFIC PROPOSALS" AND "TALKED AROUND THE ISSUE," BRADSHAW INDICATED THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF MEETING. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE "COMMUNICATING WITH BRITISH WITHIN WEEK RE LANGUAGE OF NEW PROPOSAL FOR WEBSTER." BRADSHAW ALSO SAID THAT HMG HAD PUT OFF AGAIN ANGUILLA COUNCIL LEADER RONALD WEBSTER'S TRIP TO LONDON FOR TALKS WITH LESTOR.

4. IN DISCUSSING WEBSTER, BRADSHAW INDICATED THAT HMG WAS CONSTRAINED IN ITS APPROACH ON PROBLEM POSED BY WEBSTER'S THREATS TO UNILATERALLY DECLARE ANGUILLA INDEPENDENT IF HMG DOES NOT CONSTITUTIONALLY FORMALIZE ITS SEPARATE STATUS BY END OF MAY. HOWEVER, BRADSHAW SAID HE DID NOT WANT HIS STATE BROKEN UP. HE NOTED THAT IF ANGUILLA SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING SEPARATE STATUS, NEVIS WOULD DEMAND SIMILAR TREATMENT. (OPPOSITION NEVIS REFORMATION PARTY IN NEVIS BELIEVES THAT ST.KITTS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IS NEGLECTING NEVIS JUST AS IT ALLEGEDLY NEGLECTED ANGUILLA. GOSK NEGLECT ISSUE PRECIPITATED ANGUILLA PROBLEM.) BRADSHAW BELIEVES "HMG COULD STOP WEBSTER FROM DECLARING UDI BY ENDING CURRENT 500,000 POUNDS STERLING A YEAR SUBSIDY TO ANGUILLA.

5. BRADSHAW SAID THAT USG COULD HELP RESOLVE ANGUILLA ISSUE BY "DISCOURAGING FRAGMENTATION OF ISLANDS" (ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA) IN EASTERN CARIBBEAN. HE IS TRYING TO KEEP HIS STATE WHOLE AND DOES NOT WANT HIS "UNITARY STATE TO BECOME FEDERAL STATE."

6. BRADSHAW'S COMMENTS ON DOG ISLAND, INDEPENDENCE FOR ST.
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PAGE 03 BRIDGE 00761 122129Z

KITTS, AND SUGAR ESTATES ACT FOLLOW BY SEPTELS.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NOTHING CONCRETE APPARENTLY CAME OUT OF THE BRADSHAW-LESTOR TALKS IN BARBADOS, BRADSHAW CHARACTERIZES THE TALKS AS MAKING SOME PROGRSS, WHICH THIS EMBASSY WELCOMES. ALTHOUGH HE GREATLY ADMIRES THE BRITISH, PREMIER BRADSHAW SEEMINGLY FOUND RELIEF IN SPEAKING FRANKLY WITH US, AND LATER JOINING WITH MY FAMILY FOR DINNER. END COMMENT.

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